



Forest Service
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE



BLACK HILLS
PARKS &
FORESTS
ASSOCIATION

Black Hills National Forest

2023 MOON WALK SCHEDULE

June 3

Wild for Water

Amy Hammesfahr / Wildlife Biologist – Black Hills National Forest, Northern Hills Ranger District

Spearfish Canyon Nature Area – Roughlock Falls Trail

Water is fundamental to sustain birds, mammals, and our planet. Water not only provides wildlife with drinking water, but can serve as shelter, a resting spot, or a place to cool off. Some wildlife species can modify the flow of streams and restore desiccated watersheds. Join Forest staff for a walk along the Roughlock Falls Trail and discover what wildlife species can be found within (and around) Spearfish Creek.

July 1

Stepping Back in Time

Janie Knutson / Archeologist – Black Hills National Forest, Mystic Ranger District

Mystic Ranger District – Spokane (Ghost Town)

Established in 1891, Spokane was once one of the booming mining towns in the heart of the Black Hills. Spokane served as a mine, mill, and place to call home, until the town's last caretaker left the area during the 1970s. This guided hike will highlight the remains of a true wild west ghost town. Discover what you can do to protect your local history and cultural resources. Come ready to be transported back in time and enjoy an evening learning about mines, a notorious murder mystery, and ghost towns in the Black Hills National Forest. NOTE: Spokane is located four miles south on Playhouse Road from its start at Highway 40.

August 5

Looking for Signs of Life

Bradley Block / Recreation Program Manager – Black Hills National Forest, Supervisor's Office

Bearlodge Ranger District – Carson Draw Trail System (Trail #87)

The Carson Draw Trail System provides an incredible backdrop of scenery while exploring the ponderosa pine forest. Ranging from mid-season wildflowers to an array of wildlife, the beautiful Bearlodge Ranger District offers adventurous treks for the casual hiker. Join Forest staff on an easy walk through a pine forest, searching for signs of life ... bring your little Junior Forest Rangers.

September 2

Be a Buffalo

Lydia Austin / Visitor Services Program Manager – Custer State Park – South Dakota, Game, Fish and Parks Dept.

Custer State Park – Buffalo Corrals (Wildlife Loop Road)

Custer State Park is home to one of the largest publicly owned bison herds in the nation. September signals the time of year for the Buffalo Round-Up and park efforts to manage the herd size. Take a casual walk through the buffalo corrals and learn about the management practices of our beloved Custer State Park – the crown jewel of South Dakota State Parks.



Supporting Wonder and Exploration since 1946

The Black Hills Parks and Forests Association (BHPFA) is offering 2023 Moon Walk Collector's Pins at each event for \$5.00 each. The sale of lapel pins support the interpretive and educational efforts across the Black Hills National Forest. The Moon Walk Programs are supported by BHPFA through financial assistance and staffing; BHPFA is a non-profit partner with the U.S. Forest Service.

USDA is an equal opportunity provider, employer, and lender.

Get Prepared for a Moon Walk



Q: What is a Moon Walk?

A: A Moon Walk is a guided hike that introduces participants to the natural and cultural history of the Black Hills. Different topics allow participants to explore and discover the Forest (and other public land agencies) and offer a series of family-friendly activities during the summer season.

Q: What is the purpose of the Moon Walks?

A: The Black Hills National Forest is home to an array of natural features, as well as holds an abundance of cultural history. Moon Walks are geared toward the public land enthusiast that wants to learn more about western South Dakota and eastern Wyoming and be exposed to the stories behind the scenery.

Q: What do I need to know about attending a Moon Walk?

A: Moon Walks are held on a Saturday night, closest to the full moon in June, July, August, and September. They begin at 7 p.m. and last about two hours. Each event starts with a short introduction to the night's program. Then, participants follow a guided hike into the Forest, with various stops along the route. Perhaps most important, there are no fees for attending a Moon Walk.

Q: How should I prepare for a Moon Walk?

A: The Moon Walk evening experience starts with simply traveling to the various program sites. Due to summer visitation, road conditions, wildlife, and scenery along the routes, we encourage participants to allow for plenty of travel time to and from the trailheads. Dress in layers for comfort, wear appropriate footwear (no sandals or open-toed shoes), and bring a light jacket for the cool night air. Please be advised that many routes may pose challenges for those with mobility concerns and/or the pathways are not accessible for wheelchairs or strollers.

Q: What about inclement weather? Is it possible for a Moon Walk to be canceled?

A: A Moon Walk may be canceled unexpectedly for unforeseen reasons, such as lightning, high fire danger, severe weather, and other sporadic reasons beyond our control. The program will not be canceled due to rain unless lightning is spotted.

If a Moon Walk is canceled in advance due to severe weather forecasted, the notice of cancelation will be placed on the Black Hills National Forest Facebook page, Twitter account, and Forest website. If there is uncertain weather, the public is encouraged to check online before heading out to the event.

Q: Where can I find more information on programs and activities?

A: We encourage everyone to follow the Forest on social media, as well as bookmark the Forest website for future programs, happenings, and information. For additional program information and other visitor services, please visit our partners online – the South Dakota Game, Fish and Parks Department and Black Hills Parks and Forest Association.



For More Information

Forest Headquarters

Custer, SD (605) 673-9200

Hell Canyon Ranger District

Custer, SD (605) 673-9292
Newcastle, WY (307) 746-2782

Mystic Ranger District

Rapid City, SD (605) 343-1567

Northern Hills Ranger District

Spearfish, SD (605) 642-4622

Bearlodge Ranger District

Sundance, WY (307) 283-1361

Forest Website

www.fs.usda.gov/blackhills